



PLANT SPACING REFERENCE

Created by International Rescue Committee – Charlottesville, New Roots

Summary

This is a **tool** (not a lesson) for farmers or gardeners to use in the field as a reference for plant spacing when planting out crops. Growers should be oriented to this tool before using, but in lieu of an actual lesson plan, see tips below.

Who made this guide?

This teaching resource was developed by the New Roots Program at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Charlottesville and enhanced in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED). From 2015-2017, ISED partnered with refugee farmer training programs throughout the country to support the design of new and shareable teaching resources for culturally and linguistically diverse farmers. To access the whole list of newly developed teaching resources for refugee farmer training program, follow this link. For more in-depth explanations of the teaching approaches and activities used in these materials, you can refer to this handbook.

Audience (TA or Tot)	TA (Technical Assistance for farmers)
Language and Literacy Level	Any, if the tool is updated to include visual representations of all the text used in it
Farmer Experience	Any, can be used for farmers or gardeners
Pre-Requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users need to be oriented to the tool before using. • Students need to understand seasons, should be oriented.
Region or Climate	Any, but needs to be adapted to local crops, bed width and protocols
Program Structure	Any
Season	Growing season; introduce in the field and repeat use at each season to establish good habits
Time	15 – 30 minutes
Staff and Interpreters	One staff person, interpreter for orientation ideal
Additional Supplies Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color print and laminate the relevant crops the program wishes to use as references on the farm. • (Create) a facilitation guide that introduces the tool to the farmers who will be using the tool. • Consider demonstrating the tool in the field using a crop that someone needs to plant (or in a demonstration bed).
Background Material	

TEACHING MATERIALS INCLUDED

1. Images of crops with spacing requirements

	Tomato	
	Summer	
	Spacing: 24 inches apart 	Rows Per Bed: 1 

2. “Plant Spacing Reference Sheets” Excel document

CORE SKILLS IN THIS LESSON

- Crop planning
- Plant spacing vocabulary and common measurements
- Seed spacing

SUGGESTED TEACHING METHODS

Hands on demonstration

- Using these plant spacing guides in the field will help farmers fully understand the signage and purpose of the guides. Making the connection with your actual hand or arm when planting transplants or seeds in the field is ideal. If not in the field, you can still use your hand or arm and replacement seeds and transplants to demonstrate how to use the guide. You can hand farmers different vegetable planting guides and have them show you the spacing they would use based on what it says on the guide.

Vocabulary

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- It is ideal to use the actual field, your hand and arm, and actual seeds and transplants.

TEACHING TIPS

- Adapt this tool to your farm's bed width, crops and seasons.
- If you use a yardstick at the farm, you could adapt this tool as a reference to be used in conjunction with it.
- Complementary tools to this one are:
 - "Planting Calendar Pieces"
 - "Monthly Planting Poster"
 - "Bed Sign"
- To adapt this for farmers learning print literacy, use a font that is easier for low literacy clients to use such as Century Gothic or Comic Sans (similar to handwriting)
- Add a visual cue to all text for low literacy farmers—for example, include an image for "summer" season.
- Note whether the plant is typically direct seeded, transplanted or either.